

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

OPIC-12 TRSE-00 XMB-07 AID-20 IGA-02 PPT-02 SCA-01

VO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 SCS-03

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R 020945 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0006

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0564

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG ELAB PINT LY

SUBJECT: SITUATION OF OIL COMPANIES

1. FOLLOWING IS INFO COLLECTED MOSTLY TWO DAYS
AGO WHEN TWO AMERICAN OIL COMPANY PRESIDENTS
CALLED SEPARATELY ON CHARGE.

A. PASSPORTS IMPASSE IS TOPIC A WITH MANAGERS AND
ALL EXPATRIATES. HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR EMPLOYEES
AND DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN TURNED AWAY AT AIRPORTS
IS RUNNING HIGH. MANAGERS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT
POTENTIAL LOSS OF EXPATRIATES SERVING IN DESERT HERE
WHILE THEIR FAMILIES LIVE ABROAD. ESSO HAS ABOUT
300, MOSTLY BRITISH, AND THEY EXPECTED TO CHUCK UP
JOBS IF THEY CANNOT SPEND 15 DAYS WITH FAMILIES
AFTER 55 DAYS IN DESERT. AMOSEAS HAS ABOUT 40.
AS IT HAPPENED, AMOSEAS ALSO GOT CAUGHT WITH
20-30 RESIDENT EXPATRIATE FAMILIES ABROAD, AMONG
WHOM FOUR ARE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS. ESSO SENIOR
LOCAL EMPLOYEE TALKED TO OBEIDI, MINISTER OF LABOR
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(AND ACTING FOR FREIGN AFFAIRS), ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS. OBEIDI SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET SOMETHING WORKED OUT, INVOLVING APPROVAL FOR A PIECE OF PAPER IN ARABIC INSERTED INTO PASSPORTS. CATCH WAS THAT PAPER MUST BE STAMPED BY FOREIGN GOVT CONCERNED.

B. PROBLEMS WITH " POPULAR COMMITTEES" TAKE SECOND PLACE EXCEPT POSSIBLY AT MOBIL, ONLY AMERICAN COMPANY SADDLED WITH A WILD ONE. SEE TRIPOLI 0515 FOR BACKGROUND. UPSHOT OF JALLUD'S INTERVENTION APRIL 22 WAS MERELY ELECTION OF FIVE ORDINARY WORKINGMEN TO " BALANCE" ORIGINAL MUSTANG GROUP WHICH INCLUDED SEVEN ASU " TROUBLEMAKERS". THE FIVE NEW MEN DO NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE IN THE TONE. WISEMAN OF MOBIL AND GLOSS OF AMOSEAS REQUESTED TO MEET WITH PETROLEUM MINISTER MABRUK MAY 1 TO DISCUSS SITUATION. DO NOT KNOW RESULTS, BUT AMONG NEW MANGEMENT COMPLAINTS WERE A LETTER FROM COMMITTEE DEMANDING THAT MOBIL NOT ACCEPT " ANY RESIGNATION" WITHOUT OBTAINING APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE, AND SAYING THAT THE COMMITTEE ALSO RESERVED RIGHT TO APPROVE ANY TRAINING ABROAD. MEANWHILE THE COMMITTEE WAS HOLDING THE KEYS TO FIVE MOBIL OFFICES, ITS TELEX MACHINE, AND CERTAIN SAFES, AND REVIEWING ALL MATERIAL DESTINED FOR ITS SHREDDING MACHINE. BUNKER HUNT SOURCE TELLS US LARG'S AGECE IS IN AN UPROAR WITH ITS COMMITTEE.

C. OASIS PATRICIPATION NEGOTIATORS SHAFER (CONTINENTAL) AND ANDERSON (MARATHON), JOINED HERE BY SWALES (AMERADA) AND LETTY (SHELL) MET WITH JALLUD AND MABRUK EVENING APRIL 30. FOLMER, THE ESSO WATCHDOG, WAS DUE IN TOWN MAY 2. HAVE NOTHING ON THE SUBSTANCE YET, BUT GLOSS COMMENTED THE COMPANIES HAD HAD A VERY HARD TIME FINDING " SOMETHING DIFFERENT" THEY COULD ALL AGREE TO PRESENT.

D. THE TOPIC OF PARITY NEGOTIATIONS, AND OPEC'S MAY 4 DEADLINE FOR NEW PROPOSAL FROM COMPANIES, DRAWS A BLANK HERE.

2. COMMENT: THERE IS OBVIOUSLY TOO MUCH ON THE PLATE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH FOR OIL COMPANIES AND THE LARG. WE EXPECT ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE ABOVE PROBLEMS IS GOING TO BE SHOVED ASIDE -- PERHAPS, AS BEFORE, THE FECKLESS SEARCH FOR SOMETHING CALLED PARTICIPATION. JOSIF

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